

FREE KIDS AND 25% OFF KIDS OVER 65.

Air South now makes it possible for young and old to get out of town for fun. Because for each adult fare purchased by February 24 for travel thru October 11, you can take a kid, 16 or under, along free. And if you're 65 or over, you can save 25% on your fares during this same time period. So go on vacation. Go see family. Just make sure you go on Air South. Call your travel agent or 1-800-AIR SOUTH.

FROM NEW YORK (JFK)	14 DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE OFF PEAK
Atlanta	\$89
Charleston	\$59
Columbia	\$59
Greenville/Spartanburg	\$59
Jacksonville	\$89
Miami	\$89
Myrtle Beach, SC	\$59
Norfolk	\$49
Savannah	\$59

Fares are one way. Roundtrip purchase not required.

BUY BY
FEB. 24
FLY THRU
OCT. 11

Genuine Southern Routes
AIR SOUTH

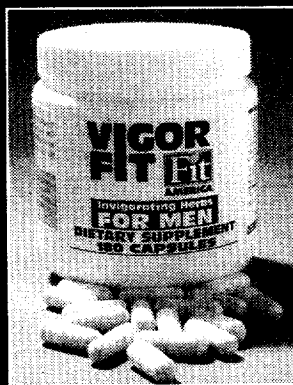
For more info, contact your travel agent, call 1-800-AIR SOUTH or check <http://www.airsouth.com>

One child, age 16 and under, flies free for each adult traveling on the same itinerary through Oct. 11. PFC of \$3-\$8 may apply. Fares are non-refundable and require immediate purchase. Off peak fares are for travel on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Seats are limited and may not be available on all flights. Blackout dates apply. Schedules and fares are subject to change.

*It's not that
the sex is bad,
it's that it's OK.*

Now you can make it great. Vigor Fit brings excitement back into your life. Its exclusive combination of 100% natural ingredients stimulates sex drive, enhances stamina and makes you feel more youthful. Feel energized and confident. Designed to help impotency by diminishing the effects of stress, fatigue and dietary imbalances, Vigor Fit increases activity and helps you live a more healthy and pleasurable life. If you don't try it you'll never know. Men of all ages and lifestyles have, and what they experience is definitely better than okay. To learn more about Vigor Fit and how it can make a big difference in your life come visit us.

116 MacDougal St.
(Btwn 3rd & Bleecker)
(212) 253-9256



to order by credit card or money order.

Call toll free
1-800-2111-FIT

LEARNING FROM HIS LESBIAN SISTER

Sharpton Courts Gay Vote

BY MARK SCHOOFS

Cary Alan Johnson had a question for the Reverend Al Sharpton and, by God, he was going to ask it.

It didn't matter that the mayoral candidate was almost an hour late for his appearance last Tuesday at the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, one of several recent forays into gay venues. It didn't matter that last year the reverend failed to show, sending two stand-ins. It didn't even matter that only about 50 turned out for Sharpton, compared with last year's packed house. Johnson, the new executive director of Gay Men of African Descent, was still smarting from how gays were "invisibilized at the Million Man March." So when Sharpton finally did arrive and finished his brief opening remarks, Johnson leaped to his feet and asked the first question: Would Reverend Al march with black gay men in the African American Day parade? Marching with ACT-UP or with the gay contingent in the Saint Patrick's Day parade was one thing, Johnson told Sharpton, but "we need you to help us make a stand in the African American community."

"I'll march with you," Sharpton promised. "But I think you let me off. The parade is after the primary. Give me a gay couple and tell me to marry them now!"

The audience burst into its loudest applause of the evening—but a lot of the cheers were purely for Sharpton's performance. "He's fast," Johnson said afterward. "He caught me." But did he catch Johnson's vote? Not yet. Johnson remains "undecided."

When Sharpton told the gay crowd that the "progressive community faces a great challenge," he could have been talking about himself. Yes, years ago he called mayor Koch a "faggot," and Jewish leaders have accused him of anti-Semitism. Nevertheless, Sharpton is a standard-bearer for the left.

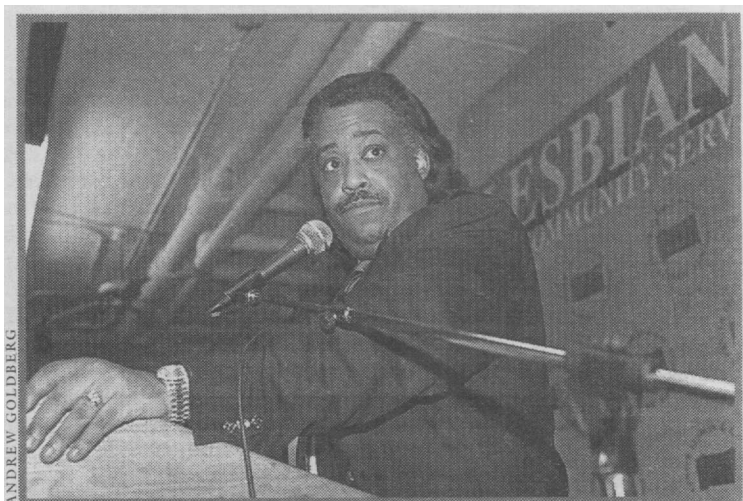
But how many gays are even liberal anymore, let alone on the barricades? "Giuliani got one-third of the gay vote," notes lesbian activist and Sharpton stalwart Ann Northrop. Andy Humm, another veteran gay activist, says Sharpton would "make a good vehicle for a protest vote"—except that gays don't seem to be protesting. "I cannot see any physical evidence, such as mailings or posters, of a desire in the gay community to get rid of Giuliani," he says.

It may be even harder to mobilize a Sharpton vote in September's Democratic primary. The minister's chief Democratic rivals—Ruth Messinger, Fernando Ferrer, and Sal Albanese—all have strong pro-gay records. But, notes long-time gay politico Dennis deLeon, those candidates "have not reached out to the minority gay community." Sharpton could find "fertile ground there," says deLeon, but he'll have to till it assiduously: "Having once tasted power with David Dinkins, gays of color are a lot more sophisticated. I don't think they'll settle for a candidate who has no chance."

Sharpton dismisses his Democratic opponents as "machine politicians." And he warned, in an interview with the Voice, about the perils of mainstreaming. As the right gains power, "it

will turn on gays, and they will find out they were assimilated only for a political use."

When you deal with homophobia," Sharpton told the Voice, "you're talking about someone I grew up with." The reverend's sister, Joy Sharpton, is a lesbian. "I remember when I first went to Greenwich Village with her. I thought it was a cesspool," he says, chuckling. His sister took him to poetry readings by Allen Ginsberg—



Reverend Al: I'll marry a gay couple now!

"something I would never have done as a boy trying to become a preacher," he says. "But I learned a lot from hanging out with her."

When Sharpton called Koch a faggot, "I had to deal with my own sister when I tried to say, 'You don't know what I mean when I use that word.'" Sharpton now recants what he terms that "defensive" reaction. "Just as there is no nonracist way of saying nigger, I had to be sensitized that there is no nonhomophobic way of saying faggot." He added, "My sister dealt with a lot of pain for being black and gay. I realized I couldn't be exclusionary and deal only with the black part."

Now, Sharpton wants gays to do the same thing in reverse: "In the gay community, people of color are not always called into coalitions," he admonished the audience at the center. "I'd like to see gays and lesbians marching with us in Harlem against police brutality." In the audience, many whites clapped politely, while many people of color cheered lustily.

Research assistance: GAMA DE JESUS

Lobbia

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

mons/Riverside—has been the subject of news articles questioning DOB's leniency.

City Council member Ronnie Eldridge plans to introduce a bill next week that would prohibit DOB from issuing permits to alter SROs without an HPD certificate of no harassment and require stop-work orders for permits that allow SRO demolition.

For West, such a law can't hit the books fast enough. One day, he says, a worker broke through the wall while he was in the bathroom, forcing him to flee.

Certainly the Carlton ensures that tourists are never so rudely interrupted in what its brochure describes as "rooms of uncompromising quality." The price may be a bargain for travelers. But if they knew how the deal came to be, they might not rest so easy.

Research: DAN COHEN